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H.C.

Abstract

This report describes work done during the third quarterly contract period for the project "Ultra-Fine Particle Size Ferroelectrics", which is directed to the preparation of controlled fine-grained dielectric films; and also to theoretical studies of the phenomena associated with the discontinuities in electrical properties which occur when the particle size of ferroelectric materials is reduced below certain levels.

During this program period, a study of the grain growth inhibition of fine-particle, substantially pure barium titanate ceramics was extended, employing the technique of depositing tantalum (V) from a solution of tantalum oxalate, on to the surface of the barium titanate particles. This method was so effective that the deliberate controlled introduction of a sintering contaminant was found necessary to facilitate densification at temperatures below the melting point of the bulk material.

A correlation was established between inhibitor concentration and terminal grain size of the fired ceramic, somewhat independent of the starting particle sizes, so that ceramic bodies of predetermined grain size larger than 2000A°, could be obtained, even using "extended" firing schedules. In the smallest grain sizes, the Curie point was found to have been eliminated from the temperature range measured.

A method was developed for producing a mixed calcium barium titanate of high purity, and of particle size approaching 100A°, by the pyrolysis of an intermediate mixed oxalate.

Preliminary experiments have been performed to ascertain the feasibility of depositing barium titanate in films by reactions in situ between soluble organic barium salts and titanium acylates in organic media. However, it was found that

the formation of intermediate gel phases restricted the development of coherent films of barium titanate, although these reactions were found to produce barium titanate in bulk systems.

Work was continued on the precipitation synthesis of barium titanate, with a view to increasing batch sizes and checking the reproducibility of the particle size and stoichiometry. Certain technical difficulties were encountered in the recovery process which limited direct scaling up of the synthesis of 100 \AA average particle sizes, without extensive modifications in the laboratory procedure.

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1. GRAIN GROWTH INHIBITION STUDIES

1.1 Control of Densification by Sintering Aids.

The initial experiments performed on firing high purity stoichiometric barium titanate materials to produce high density ceramics employed the flash firing technique in order to restrict grain growth. It was found that with starting particle sizes of about 1μ , using C. P. grade BaTiO_3 , it was impossible to achieve densifications greater than 90%, without suffering the large grain sizes (greater than 30 microns) which accompanied the use of a higher temperature or extended time.

On the other hand, using the lower purity capacitor grade BaTiO_3 facilitated the attainment of a 95% densification level, with grain growth factors of only about 2.5.

The following approach was therefore adopted. High purity BaTiO_3 was deliberately contaminated by the addition of substances which are known to form eutectics with it. The contaminants were added by deposition on the surface of the BaTiO_3 particles, since it was felt that this technique would constitute a more efficient aid to sintering than a calcination method; also, the very small amounts of contaminant necessary would not effect the electrical properties of the ceramic that depend on the geometry of the crystal lattice.

Preliminary experiments attempted to employ ZrO_2 as a sintering aid. This was deposited on the surface of the barium titanate particles by triturating BaTiO_3 materials (obtained by pyrolysis of the oxalate) with a solution of zirconyl acetate, using the equivalent of 0.8 mole percent ZrO_2 .

The powder was pressed into pellets, baked out 15 minutes at 1500°F to decompose and volatilize the organic residues, and finally sintered at temperatures at

which appreciable densification occurred. Using shrinkage and density measurements to estimate densification, it was found that the use of ZrO_2 did not enhance sinterability to any measurable degree.

Subsequently, silica was applied in the same manner, except using an ammonia-stabilized colloidal solution of SiO_2 (Ludox AS), in amounts corresponding to only 0.12 mole percent. Since, as is well known, the presence of a vitreous phase is extremely detrimental to the dissipation factors of titanate ceramics, the concentration of SiO_2 was deliberately minimized. A study of phase stabilities in the system $BaTiO_3$ - SiO_2 .(1) indicates that glasses are unlikely to exist in ranges of composition which might be present at the grain boundaries. Also, commercial grades of $BaTiO_3$ commonly contain up to 0.2 mole percent of SiO_2 .

Using 0.12 mole percent silica yielded substantial improvements in sinterability; see Table I.

TABLE I

Effect of SiO_2 on Sinterability of High Purity $BaTiO_3$

<u>Material</u>	<u>Firing Schedule</u>	<u>Shrinkage</u>	<u>Densification</u>
$BaTiO_3$ obtained by pyrolysis of oxalate at 1800°F	1 minute at 2300°F	8.8%	60%
Same as above + 1/2 weight percent SiO_2	"	15.9%	86%

Dissipation factors were found to be unaltered by the presence of the silica, when compared with those of a control to which no silica was added.

1.2 Use of Tantalum Oxide to Inhibit Grain Growth.

A study was made on the effect of tantalum oxide using 0.12 mole percent silica to promote sintering, and amounts of a tantalum oxalate solution equivalent to

0.125 to 2.5 weight percent of Ta_2O_5 . The general method of preparing the specimens was as follows: The powders were triturated with a water solution containing the calculated amounts of Ludox AS colloidal silica, mixed with a freshly centrifuged stock solution of tantalum oxalate (Kawecki Chemical Company). After air drying several hours, the powder was pressed into disks at 8000 psi, with no binder added. Following a 15 minute bakeout, the specimens were given a 20 minute extended firing at 2750°F, using the procedure described in the previous quarterly report of this project.

Table II illustrates the results obtained with various additions of Ta_2O_5 , using different starting particle sizes of barium titanate, derived from the pyrolysis of barium titanyl oxalate at different temperatures. 0.12 mole percent of SiO_2 was added in each case to facilitate sintering.

Percent open porosity was determined by weighing the densified specimen before and after placing in boiling water for 15 minutes; grain sizes were measured using methods detailed in the last quarterly report for this project.

TABLE II
Effect of Tantalum Oxide on Grain Growth of $BaTiO_3$ Ceramics + 1/2% SiO_2

Average Starting Particle Size, μ	% Ta_2O_5	% Densification	% Open Porosity	Average Grain Size, μ	Average Grain Growth Factor
0.4	1.25	94.2	1.5	0.8	2
0.4	0.5	93.7	0.0	1.0	2.5
0.4	0.125	90.0	0.0	4.0	10.
0.2	2.5	95.8	0.0	0.2	1.5
0.2	1.0	89.6	0.0	0.5	2.5
0.2	0.25	72.5	12.5	6.0	30.
0.09	2.0	100.	0.0	0.3	3.3
0.09	0.5	85.	0.0	1.5	17.

It is evident from Table II that the average grain size of the fired ceramic is somewhat independent of the starting particle size of the powder; however, there

is an apparent correlation with the tantalum oxide content. This relationship is plotted in Figures 1 (a) and (b), where the results for the different starting sizes are grouped on the same curve.

Based on a simple geometric model of the ceramic microstructure, it is instructive to calculate the area concentration of grain growth inhibitor present, if we assume that the inhibitor accumulates as a distinct phase confined to the inter-grain region of the densified body. For the case of a cubically-close packed grain structure with uniformly thin grain boundaries (which is easy to calculate), if the size distribution is homogeneous, then the total number of unit cells is of the order of

$$\left[\frac{L}{a} \right]^3 \quad \text{per grain,}$$

where L = length of the grain edge
 a = length of the unit cell edge, the unit cell being assumed cubic.

Also, the total number of unit cells which are adjacent to a grain boundary is about

$$6 \left[\frac{L}{a} \right]^2 \quad \text{per grain,}$$

so that the concentration of the latter type of unit cell ("interfacial" unit cell) is

$$\frac{6}{L} \left[\frac{L}{a} \right]^2 \quad / \quad \left[\frac{L}{a} \right]^3 = \frac{6a}{L} \quad \text{mole fraction or}$$
$$\frac{600a}{L} \quad \text{mole percent.}$$

For a barium titanate the value of a is approximately 4 \AA ; for a grain size of 1μ , i.e. $L = 1\mu$ or 10000\AA , the concentration of "interfacial" unit cells is therefore of the order of $1/4$ mole percent.

If we assume any other type of grain geometry with a homogeneous size distribution, for example a grain structure with a hexagonal cross section, it is evident that the value just quoted will not change by more than a factor of, say 2.

Examining Figure 1 (a) will give us the experimental value for the concentration of Ta_2O_5 required to sustain an average grain size of 1 micron, as about 1/2 weight percent, or 1/4 mole percent. This leads to the somewhat astonishing result that the total inhibitor concentration is of the order of one molecular unit per pair of "interfacial" barium titanate unit cells; in other words, the concentration of grain boundary stabilizer is stoichiometrically equivalent to an inter-grain layer roughly monomolecular in thickness.

It should be pointed out that the values of grain size quoted in Figure 1 result from a 20 minute firing schedule. However, extending the schedule to several hours was found to produce negligible additional grain growth, so that the tantalum oxide constitutes a "stabilizer" in the rather strict sense.

This geometric model of the stabilized ceramic microstructure, with the additional assumption of a uniform area distribution of inhibitor, implies that the concentration of inhibitor is inversely proportioned to the average final grain size. Significantly, the data of Figure 1 and Table II follow this relationship within their experimental accuracy. In Figure 1 (b), the reciprocal average grain size is plotted against tantalum oxide content to give a straight line.

In summary, the use of 2.5 weight percent of Ta_2O_5 was found to inhibit grain growth to a final size of 0.2 microns, using sufficiently finely and homogeneously sized pure barium titanate starting materials, and a small amount of SiO_2 as a sintering aid. It is expected that the use of higher concentrations of Ta_2O_5 will result in proportionately smaller grain sizes.

Electron micrographs of polished and etched samples are reproduced in Figure 2. The specimens were replicated with polyvinyl alcohol, and shadowed with

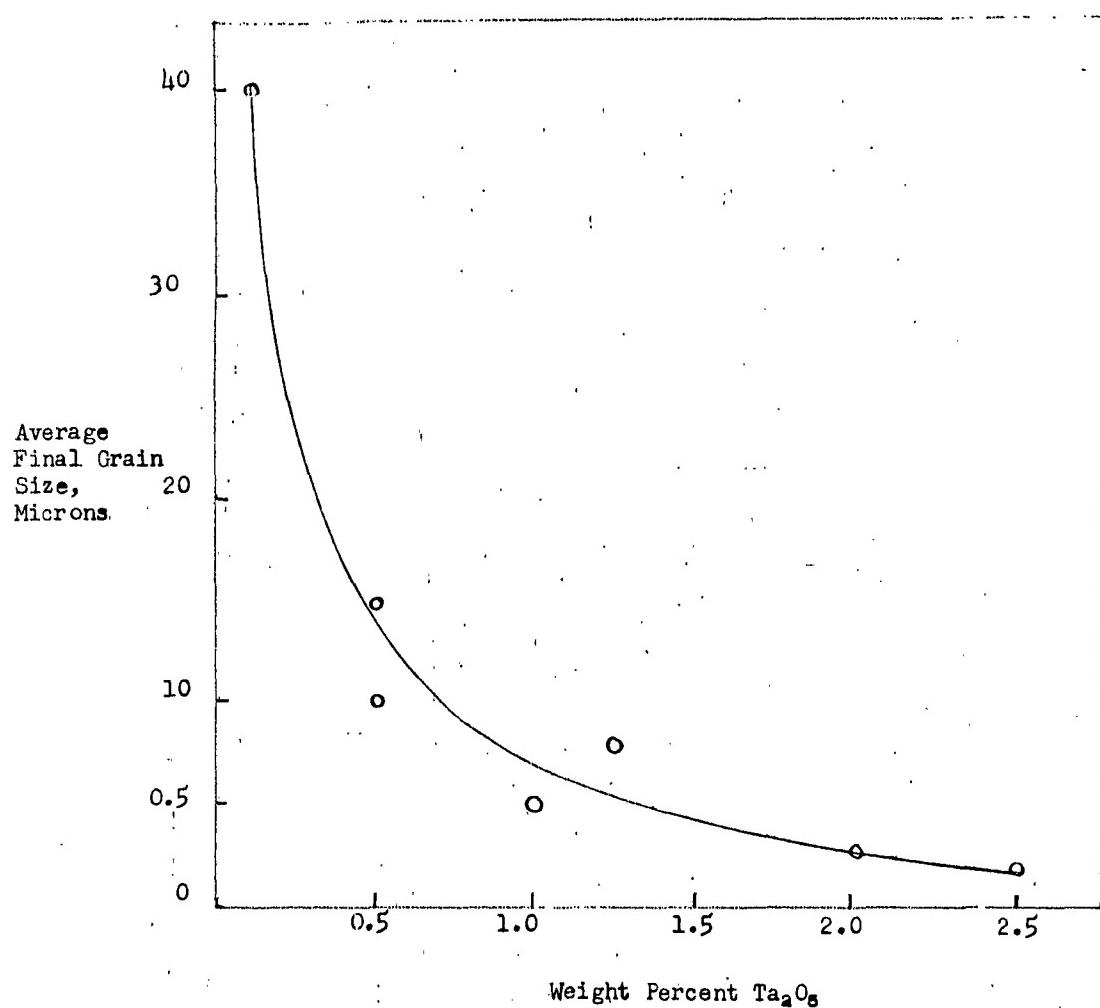


Figure 1a Effect of Ta_2O_5 content on grain growth of $BaTiO_3$ ceramic.

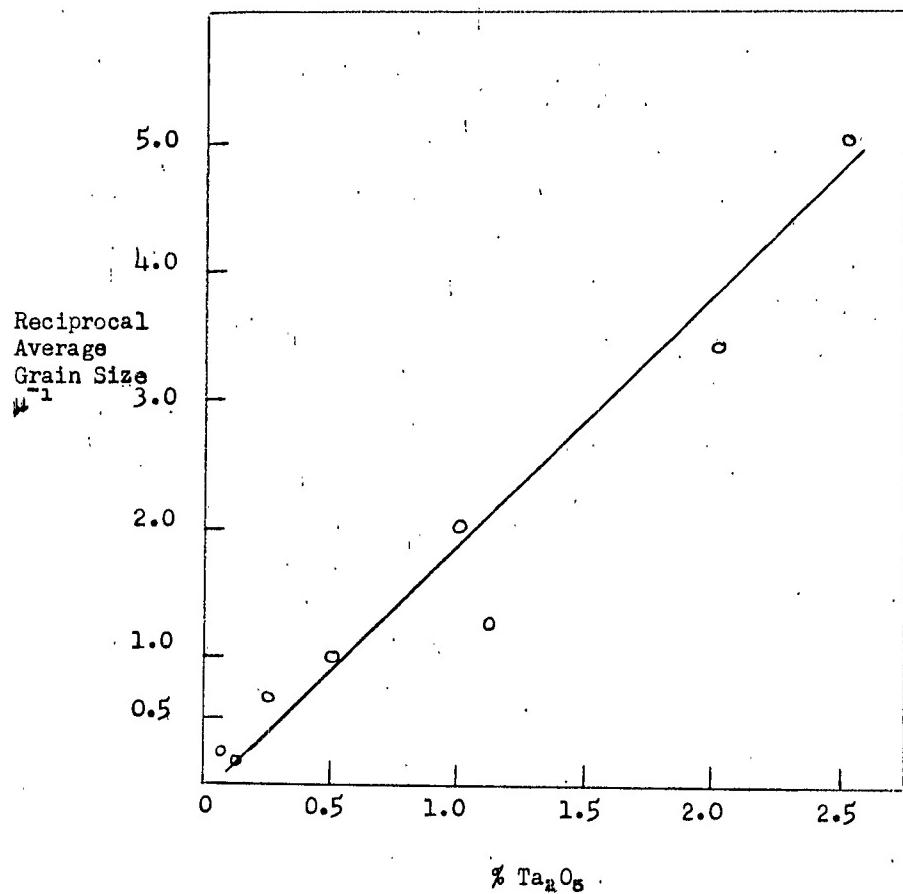


Figure 1b: Effect of Ta_2O_5 Content on Grain Growth of $BaTiO_3$ Ceramic.

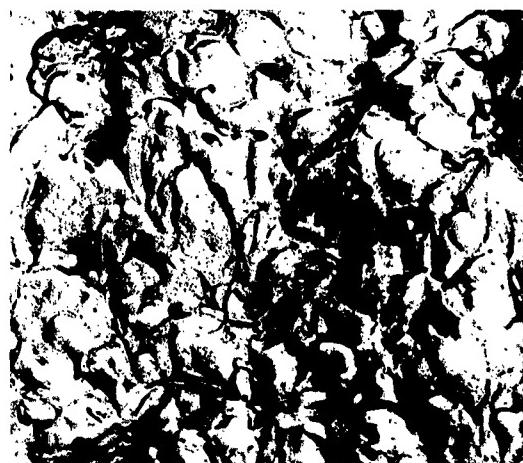
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Figure 2: Electron micrographs of Ceramic BaTiO₃ with Ta₂O₅ added. Surfaces polished and etched.



10 micron grains

1μ



0.2 micron grains

1μ

platinum at 15° on a carbon backing. Due to porosity in the grain boundary region, it was difficult to replicate this area with perfect fidelity because of excessive local adhesion of the plastic film; however, the grain structure is unambiguously detailed.

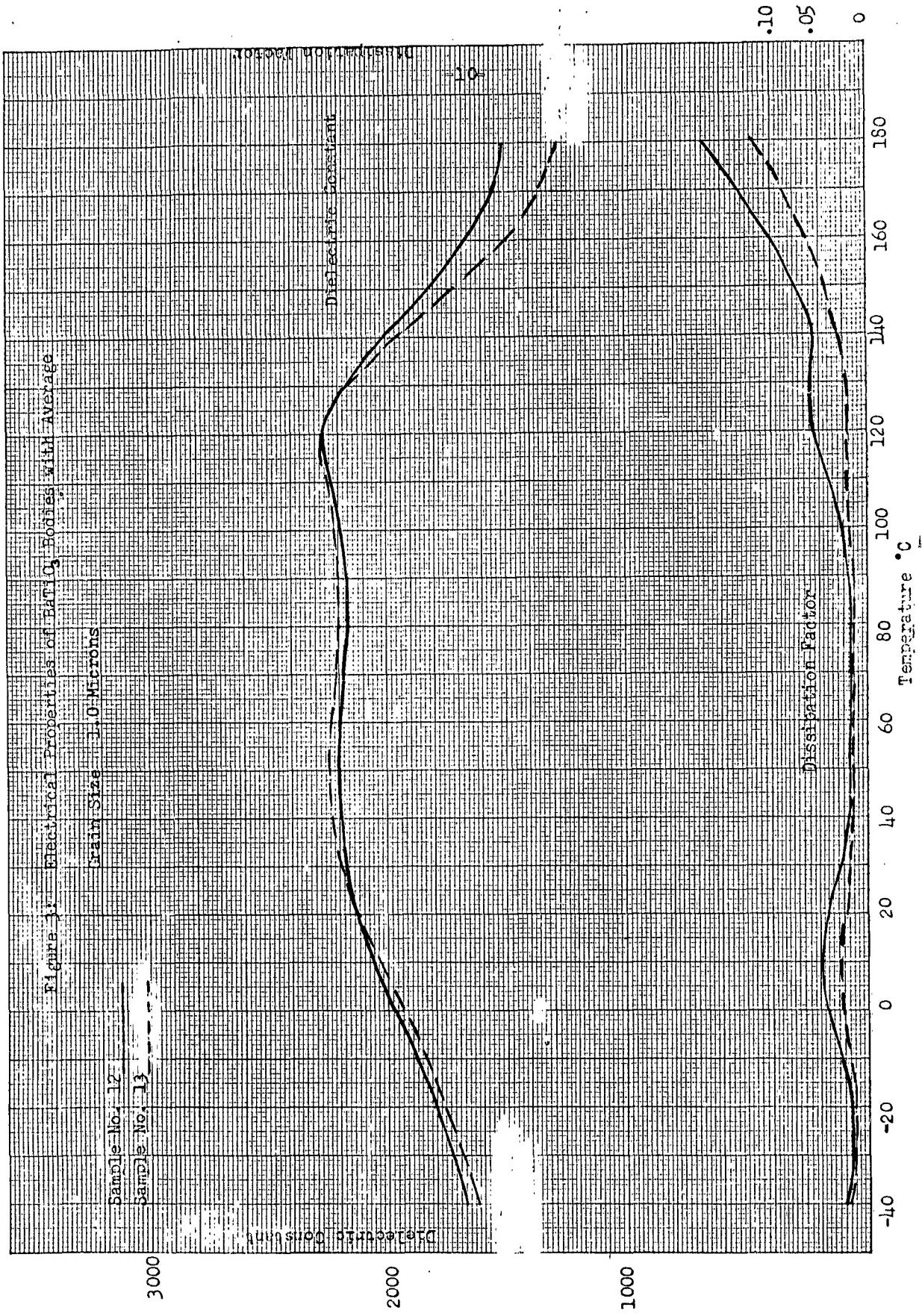
1.3 Electrical Properties of Barium Titanate Ceramics with Controlled Grain Growth.

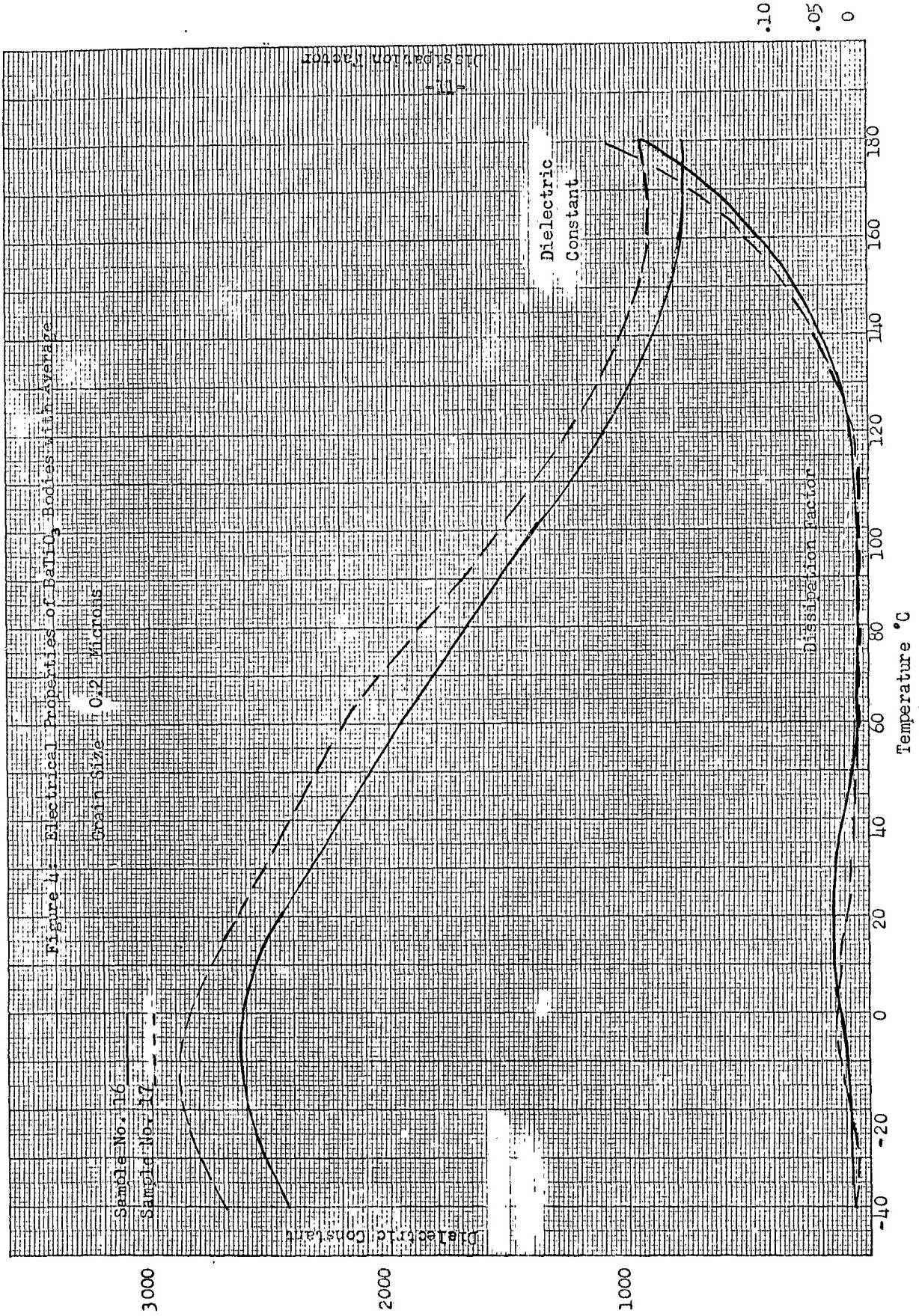
Graphs of dielectric constant and dissipation factor are plotted in Figures 3 and 4, for the bodies with grain sizes of 1.0 and 0.2 microns, respectively. The duplicate curves shown indicate the reproducibility of different specimens of the same composition and firing.

The larger grain size material shows a Curie peak at about 125°; however, it is extremely flat, representing an increase in dielectric constant K of only 5% over the room temperature. The lower temperature peak, corresponding to the tetragonal-or orthorhombic phase change in the vicinity of 0°, is absent from this body. Compare this to the curve in Figure 5, which represents the behavior of a control material of identical composition, except with no Ta_2O_5 added, and grain sizes averaging about 40 microns.

The electrical properties of the body inhibited to 0.2 micron grains show even more marked differences. In Figure 4, the Curie point has disappeared entirely from the temperature range measured, -40° to 180°C. In fact, K shows an extremely smooth variation from about 2800 to 750 as the temperature is increased.

Figures 6, 7, and 8 show the hysteresis loops for the samples corresponding to the Figures 3, 4, and 5, respectively. The finest grain sized body exhibits a marked reduction in the area of the loop; the material is not appreciably ferroelectric until the application of higher fields. The behavior of the 1.0 micron body is intermediate between the larger and smaller grain size behavior.





3000

2000

1000

Figure 1. Electrical properties of BaTiO₃ bodies fired at 1100°C

Grain size: 0.2 microns

Dielectric Constant

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

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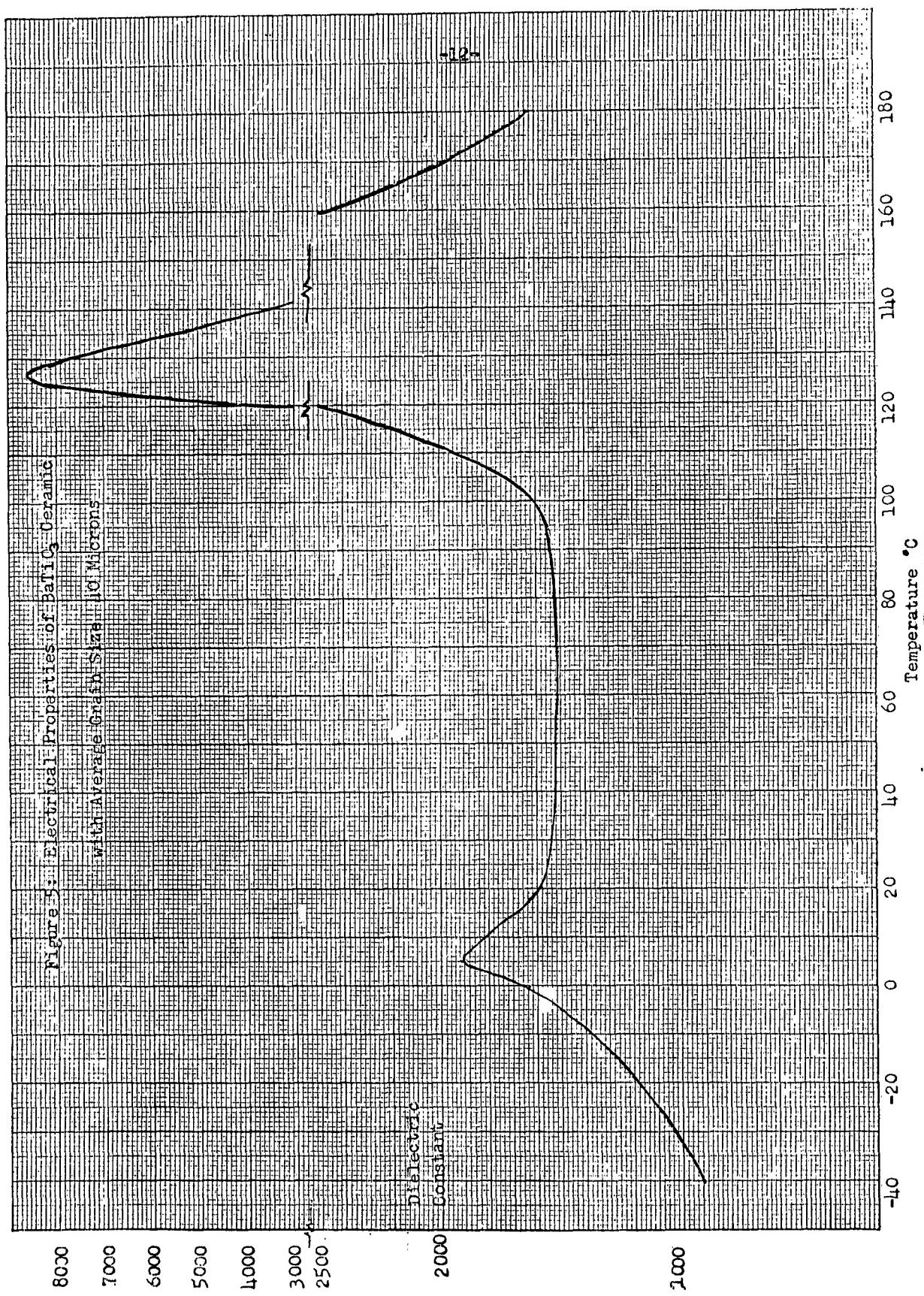
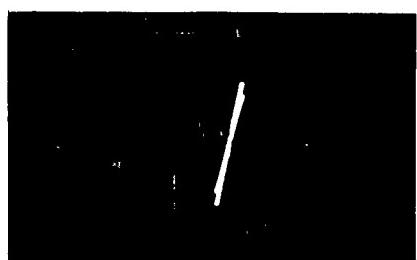
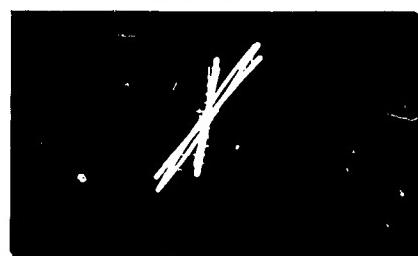


Figure 6: Hysteresis loops of BaTiO₃ Bodies with average grain size 1.0 μ .
See figure 8 for legend.

25°C



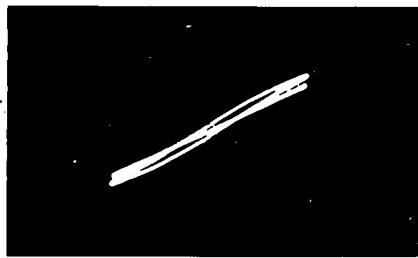
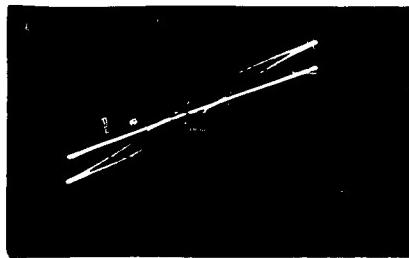
120°C



1.7 kV/cm



8.3 kV/cm

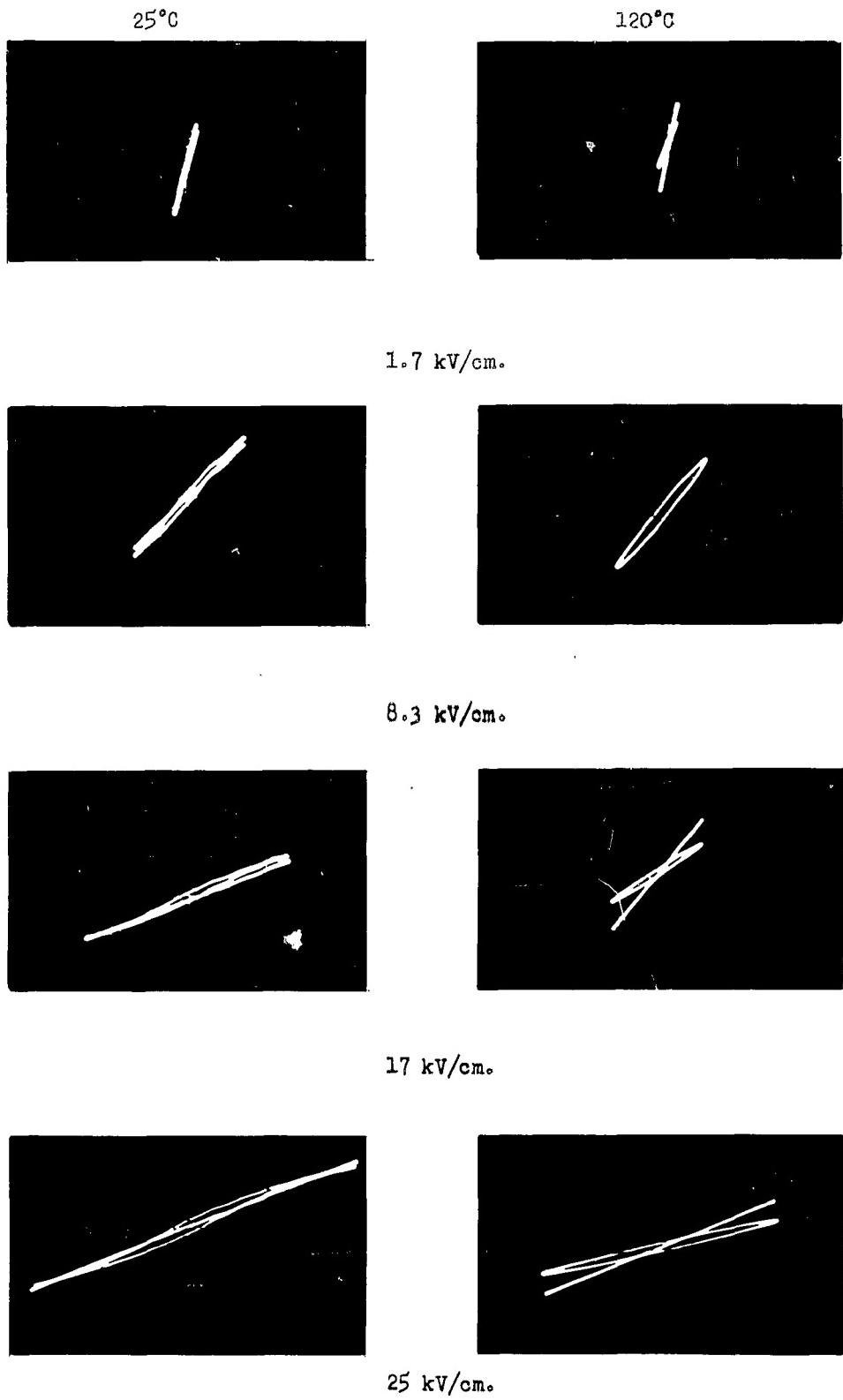


17 kV/cm



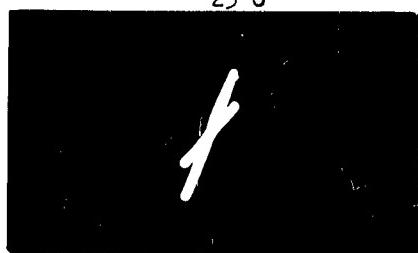
25 kV/cm

Figure 7: Hysteresis loops of BaTiO_3 bodies with average grain size 0.2μ .
See figure 8 for legend.



-15-

Figure 8: Hysteresis Loops of BaTiO₃ bodies
with average grain size,
40 μ , 25°C



Curves at corresponding field strengths
in Figures 6, 7, and 8, are plotted to
the same scales of field strength and
polarization, for purpose of
comparison.

1.7 kV/cm.



8.2 kV/cm.



17 kV/cm.



25 kV/cm

The dielectric breakdown fields are as follows. Values listed are averages of duplicates, and sample thickness was about 0.06 cm.

TABLE III

Breakdown Fields of Inhibited Grain Size BaTiO₃ Ceramics

<u>Average Grain Size</u>	<u>% Ta₂O₅</u>	<u>Breakdown Field kV/cm.</u>
1.0	0.5	68.
0.2	2.5	60.
40.	0	52.

The addition of Ta₂O₅ and consequent reduction in grain size appears to have improved the breakdown field to some extent.

2. MIXED TITANATES IN ULTRA-FINE PARTICLE SIZES DERIVED FROM THE PYROLYSIS OF THE OXALATES.

2.1 Background

On account of the ease with which controlled fine particle size barium titanate powders of high purity may be obtained by the pyrolysis of barium titanyl oxalate, a certain amount of effort was directed to the preparation of mixed calcium barium titanate using analogous reactions. The reason for this selection is two-fold. First of all, our experiments indicated that the smallest particle sizes of barium titanate obtainable by a direct pyrolysis reaction are not smaller than about 500\AA° , but sizes as small as 100\AA° were desired. Theoretical considerations relative to the mechanism of the pyrolysis reaction suggested that if it were possible to prepare a mixed calcium barium titanyl oxalate, say, then its thermal decomposition might result in particles appreciably smaller than 500\AA° .

Secondly, the substitutional introduction of calcium into the barium titanate lattice results in a solid solution with a higher Curie point and a reduced temperature variation of dielectric constant (2),(3).

2.2 Experimental Methods

The methods reported generally in the literature for the synthesis of pure barium titanyl oxalate (4), (5) were not considered to be readily adaptable to the production of mixed alkaline earth titanyl oxalates. Accordingly, a new preparative method was developed, based on the decomposition of barium titanate by hot, concentrated solutions of oxalic acid.

In a typical experiment, 0.1 moles of C. P. grade barium titanate was dispersed in a 10% equivalent excess of a 50% solution of oxalic acid. Refluxing the mixture for a few minutes resulted in a precipitate of barium oxalate, and a solution of titanium oxalate. When the mixture was allowed to digest for 2 hours at 80°C , the

solid was converted to barium titanyl oxalate, and then removed by filtration in a substantially quantitative yield. The excess of oxalic acid was employed to retain in solution heavy metal and other impurities which readily form soluble oxalato complexes, thus improving the purity of barium titanyl oxalate.

Pyrolysis of the product at 1500°F for two hours resulted in barium titanate of a particle size identical to that derived from the similar treatment of a commercially obtained barium titanyl oxalate, averaging about 800 - 1000A°. The procedure employed here was identical to that described in the last quarterly report of this contract.

For the production of fine particle mixed calcium barium titanate, a coarse particle material was first prepared, as follows. The desired molar ratios of C. P. grades calcium and barium titanates were blended, pressed into slugs, and calcined several hours at 2200°F. They were then disintegrated with a mortar and pestle, repressed and re-calcined. The disintegrated powder was then converted to the oxalate, identically to the pure barium titanate described above.

Pyrolysis of the product for 2 hours at 1500°F resulted in the mixed titanate.

Two base compositions have been prepared by this procedure; $\text{Ca}_{0.10}\text{Ba}_{0.90}\text{TiO}_3$, and $\text{Ca}_{0.03}\text{Ba}_{0.97}\text{TiO}_3$. The particle sizes of the 10 mole percent calcium material obtained by pyrolysis at 1500°F ranged closely about 150A°, when the product was deflocculated with a 10% ammonium oleate solution.

The stoichiometry of the fine particled calcium barium titanate solid solution was established as follows. The compositions of coarse-particled solid solutions, prepared by the repeated calcination procedure, was calculated from the wet analyses of the pure calcium and barium titanate starting materials, since none of

the components are volatile under the reaction conditions employed. These coarse-particled materials were then used as calibration standards to obtain x-ray fluorescence intensity ratios for the BaO/TiO₂ and CaO/TiO₂ mole ratios. Then the corresponding mole ratios for the fine-particled solid solutions, derived from pyrolysis of the mixed oxalate, were calculated from their measured fluorescence intensity ratio. The exact technique is detailed in the second quarterly report of this contract.

It was found that the fine-particled material generally suffered a slight depletion of titanium, of the order of two or three percent, with the CaO/BaO ratio remaining virtually unaltered. This is no doubt due to the residual solubility of titanium oxalate in the supernatant liquid after the digestion step with oxalic acid. However, it should be possible to eliminate the titanium deficiency by reducing the amount of solvent present during the digestion step, or by adding, say, alcohol to reduce the solubility of titanium oxalate.

It should be pointed out that the current work on the synthesis of mixed calcium barium titanates is not part of a program for composition development. Rather, it has been introduced to add an extra degree of freedom to facilitate modifications of the barium titante base material with regard to the bulk Curie point, and the ready accessibility of fine particles as small as 100A°.

3. ULTRA-FINE BaTiO₃ BY THE PRECIPITATION TECHNIQUE.

3.1 Objectives

The objectives of the studies performed during this period of the contract were to establish the reproducibility of the preliminary experiments to produce controlled size ultra-fine barium titanate, particularly when the syntheses were scaled up to 25-50 gram batches.

A study was also made of the effect of the recovery process, as defined below, on the BaO/TiO₂ ratio of the product, particularly since this ratio has been somewhat difficult to pre-determine in the preliminary experiments.

The processes by which BaTiO₃ of BaO/TiO₂ ratio 1.02 to 1.05 have been obtained utilizing chelated and non-chelated isopropyltitanate, respectively, have been described in the previous quarterly report of this contract. Particle sizes of the products were 100A° - 200A°, respectively.

3.2 Reproducibility Experiments

Table IV lists the results of particle size and stoichiometry measurements on duplicated batches of precipitated BaTiO₃, in two desired size ranges, (a) and (b). Reproduction of these properties has been successful.

TABLE IV

Reproducibility of Controlled Size BaTiO₃ by the Precipitation Technique.

(a) 100 - 200A°

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>BaO/TiO₂ Ratio</u>	<u>Particle Size, A°</u>
13	1.019	100-200
18	1.065	80-250
22	1.058	100-200

(b) 400 - 1000A°

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>BaO/TiO₂ Ratio</u>	<u>Particle Size, A°</u>
6	1.05	400-1000
29	1.08	600-1200

3.3 Effect of the Recovery Process on the BaO/TiO₂ Ratio

A study of the effect of the recovery process on the BaO/TiO₂ ratio was carried out on systems utilizing the hydrolysis of the chelated isopropyltitanate in a 1:1 water-isopropyl alcohol solution of Ba(OH)₂. The results of these experiments are summarized in Table V.

It was established by the comparison of experiments in which the conditions of the precipitation were identical, but the recovery process was varied, that the recovery process has a major effect on the BaO/TiO₂ ratio. Centrifugation of both the hot and cold slurry resulted in a lower BaO/TiO₂ ratio (0.841 and 0.95, respectively). The latter result being very close to unity, a reconsideration of the effect of cold centrifugation process is planned.

The BaO/TiO₂ ratio decreased drastically when the undried precipitate was digested with 0.2% formic acid (0.861) or when the precipitate was dried at a low temperature (116°C) for only one hour previous to the digestion (0.848).

The following recovery process seems to be the most favorable. After precipitation, the slurry is cooled to room temperature, stored for one to two hours, and is filtered through a fritted glass filter. The precipitate is washed with cold degassed distilled water two to three times. The weight of each quantity of wash water is about 40 times that of the weight of the precipitate. Finally the precipitate is dried in a vacuum oven at 120°C or higher.

Filtration of the precipitate becomes extremely slow when the particle sizes approach 100A°, therefore, it is preferable to carry out the filtration in an N₂ atmosphere to prevent BaCO₃ formation during the lengthy filtering step.

Due to the disadvantage of filtering slowly, further experiments are necessary to review separation by centrifuging and other possible recovery methods are to be

TABLE V

Effect of the Recovery Process on the BaO/TiO₂ Ratio

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Method of Separation</u>	<u>Temperature of Separation</u>	<u>Cold Water Wash</u>	<u>Treatment of Precipitate Before Digestion</u>	<u>Digestion with 0.2% Formic Acid</u>	<u>Ba/Ti Ratio</u>
271	Filtration	Cold	Not Used	---	---	1.15
18	Filtration	Cold	Used	---	---	1.065
22	Filtration	Cold	Used	Dried at 190°C for 5 hours	200cc for 4 g precipitate	1.058
13	Filtration	Cold	Used	Dried at 190°C for 3 hours	---	1.019
25	Filtration	Cold	Not Used	Dried at 190°C for 4 hours	1000cc for 4 g precipitate	0.99
192	Filtration	Hot	Used	---	---	0.944
20	Centrifugation	Cold	Used	---	---	0.95
191	Centrifugation	Hot	Used	---	---	0.841
161	Filtration	Cold	Used	Undried	200cc for 4 g Precipitate	0.861
162	Filtration	Cold	---	Dried at 1160C For 1 hour	---	0.848

assessed to suit the production of larger quantities.

3.4 Scaling Up

BaTiO_3 of BaO/TiO_2 ratio = 1.08 was obtained by the hydrolysis of isopropyl-titanate in a water solution of $\text{Ba}(\text{OH})_2$ in a batch increased by a factor of 5 compared to a former experiment. The particle size of the product was 600-1200 \AA , very close to the predicted 400-1000 \AA .

The experimental work indicated two major problems: difficulties in the filtration step, and an increase in the BaO/TiO_2 ratio.

3.5 Densification of Ultra-Fine BaTiO_3

Various attempts were made to densify bodies from the materials in the two particle size ranges (a) and (b) listed in Table III, using flash and extended firing cycles, without the incorporation of any additives. However, the resulting bodies could not be densified to greater than about 80%.

This difficulty is ascribed to both the high purity and extremely fine particle size of the material. When a sample of the powder is heated in a flame, it exhibits a "recalcescence" phenomenon, i.e. the sudden liberation of heat accompanying a rapid decrease in the surface area at temperatures several hundred degrees below the bulk fusion temperature. For materials of extremely high surface area, i.e. high surface energy, it is possible that the heat liberated is sufficient to induce local fusion. Small pellets of the material sintered as low as 2300°F exhibit non-porous surfaces but porous interiors, when examined in section under the microscope. This suggests that the surface of the particle fuses prematurely.

An approach to increasing the densification of this material is the use of a very slow heating cycle, or the addition of high concentrations of grain growth inhibitors.

4. PRECIPITATION OF BaTiO₃ FILMS FROM HOMOGENEOUS SOLUTION

In view of the successes which had been experienced in this laboratory in obtaining barium titanate of a reproducible particulate character, by the use of soluble barium and organic titanium compounds, preliminary experiments were directed to the precipitation of films of barium titanate directly from homogeneous solution. The objective was to obtain a coherent polycrystalline film of barium titanate with a sub-optical crystallite size. By subjecting such a material to controlled heat treatments, a full range of larger grain sizes might be obtainable.

One particular system was selected by virtue of the particular reactivity of the starting materials, which facilitated manipulation without fear of premature deposition of barium titanate, or of reaction times too slow to be practical. This system comprised the reaction between barium acetate, and an equivalent amount of a titanyl acylate in a glacial acetic acid medium. When the reactants were mixed in suitable proportions, a precipitate formed after a period of several hours at room temperature, and more rapidly at elevated temperatures. When dried and calcined at 1000°F, the reaction product was identified, by x-ray diffraction and x-ray fluorescence, as stoichiometric barium titanate.

In a typical experiment, 10.5 g. of barium acetate was dissolved in 20 g. of boiling glacial acetic acid, and cooled to 25°C. It was then mixed with 13.6 g. of tetrabutyltitanate, and evacuated with stirring while warming to 50° over a period of 3 hours, in order to complete the reaction of the titanate ester to form the butoxy titanyl acetate, by the volatilization of part of the butyl alcohol (6). The resulting product was a clear orange viscous solution, containing the equivalent of about 21% BaTiO₃.

A few drops of the material were spread on a glass plate, which was then

placed in a covered dish to inhibit evaporation, since the lower molecular weight titanate acylates (i.e. the unpolymerized species) are not entirely involatile. In about 12 hours, a gel had formed, which on subsequent evaporation, had cracked so as to lose its coherency.

To date, the use of various dilutions by acetic acid has not been successful in preventing gel formation, so that coherent films of barium titanate have not been obtained. However, it is possible that the introduction of higher boiling solvents of appropriate polarity into the reaction system may sustain the fluidity of the solution during the solvent evaporation process. Such additives which might be suitable are glycol monoethers, which have been found to be miscible with the reaction system.

PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT CONTRACT PERIOD

During the next period of this project, films will be prepared in a range of thicknesses by deposition from dispersions of high purity fine particle barium titanate, with particles coated with small quantities of SiO_2 , and Ta_2O_5 to control the grain size of the fired film. For these preparations, white room facilities will be used to ensure freedom from dust contamination.

The films will be electroded and characterized electrically, the properties to be determined as a function of grain size.

Other formulations based on fine homodisperse calcium barium titanate materials, obtained by the method of pyrolysis of the oxalate, will also be studied, since these solid solutions may offer improvements in the desired electrical requirements, based on their elevated Curie points.

A further study will be made of the feasibility of depositing barium titanate from reactions in homogeneous solution, by attempting to restrict the formation of intermediate gel phases.

Efforts will be directed to overcoming the deleterious effects of the rapid release of energy when ultra-fine particles, obtained by the precipitation technique, are sintered, by using slow programmed heating cycles.

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